



Una manera de hacer Europa



BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Tartessian site of Turuñuelo Houses

Institute of Archaeology of Mérida (IAM) - Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC).

Programa Operativo de Extremadura

Año 2022

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

TARTESSIAN SITE OF TURUÑUELO HOUSES

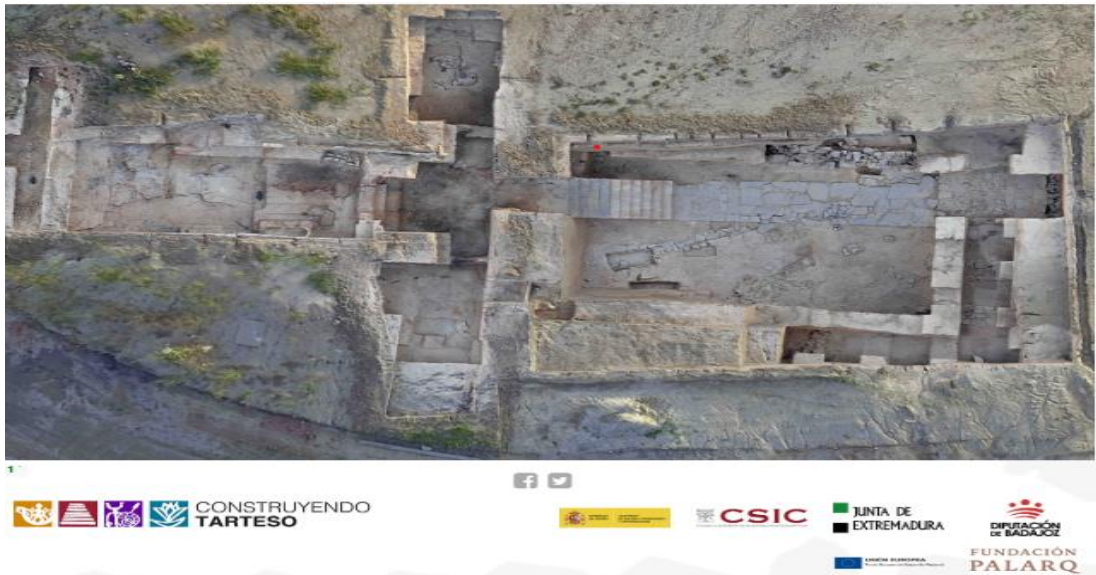
The archaeological site of Turuñuelo is located in the municipality of Guareña (Badajoz) and the work carried out has revealed the importance of the enclave, its architectural richness and the exceptional nature of this settlement as unique in the middle Guadiana valley in the final phase of the Tartessian chronology (5th century BC). This project is the continuity of other campaigns initiated in 2014 and whose interest has led to the declaration of the archaeological site as an Asset of Cultural Interest in 2020.

The research work is focused on the realization of the R&D project "Animal hecatomb study of the site of Casas de Turuñuelo. The management of livestock and its socioeconomic and ritual implications in the Tartessian period", carried out by the Institute of Archaeology of Mérida (IAM) - Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC).

The total cost of the action is **148,227.20 €** and the aid received from the European Regional Development Fund was **118,581.76 €**.

Currently, the action is in execution until end of 2023 by CSIC, that has a direct grant to finance the "Development and continuity with the research of the Tartessian site of Casas de Turuñuelo", for a total amount of **166,518 €** of which **133,214.4 €** is funded by the European Regional Development Fund, ERDF.

The implementation of the action has benefited society in general because of its informative nature and scientific interest. A dissemination platform has been created with comprehensive and updated information that has more than 1,000 followers. Publications in social networks have reached up to 12,000 views, and counts with the participation of a broad part of the international scientific community.



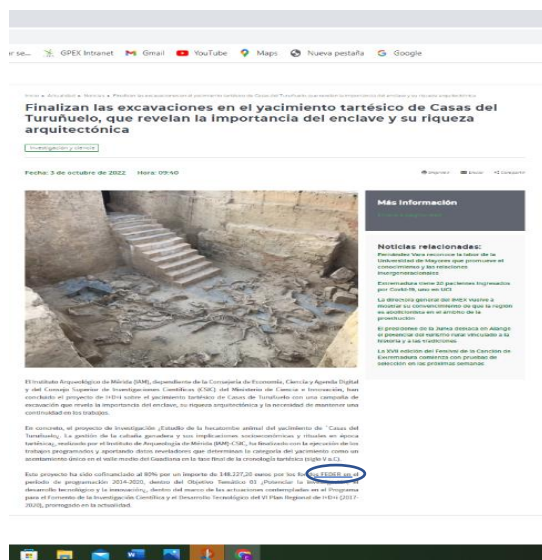
This action is considered a Best Practice because:

The role of the ERDF in the action has been adequately disseminated among potential beneficiaries and the general public.

From the beginning of the excavations, the site was correctly identified with a sign and access plaques to the Turuñuelo excavations. These elements clearly indicate that this is an ERDF co-financed project.



All information about the site activities and progress is currently disseminated through regional media and news are communicated through press and web page of the Junta de Extremadura and Instituto de Arqueología de Mérida (Institute of Archaeology of Mérida).



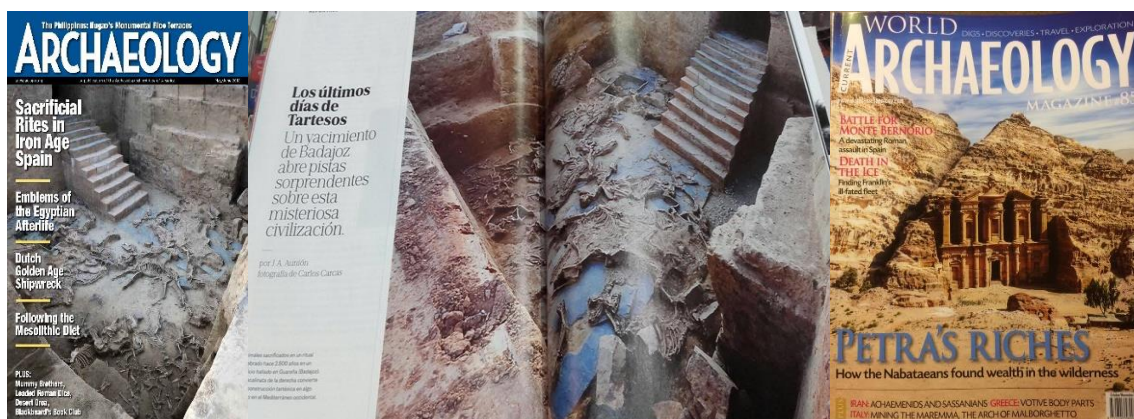
The findings have not only had an international scientific projection, but their dissemination has also acquired an extraordinary social dimension through their diffusion on social networks such as twitter, Construyendo Tarteso @CTarteso; Facebook https://www.facebook.com/ConstruyendoTarteso; and the blog tartesoencomunidad.blogspot.com, as platforms for dissemination and socialisation.



In addition, numerous seminars, conferences and informative workshops have been held to inform the public about this action financed by ERDF funds and the importance of the availability of financial resources for the excavation.



Its dissemination has aroused the interest of the international community and its diffusion in impact journals.



The action incorporates innovative elements

The Turuñuelo site has implemented a series of innovative elements in the study of the Tartessian culture. The remains found reveal the existence of a sanctuary that constitutes an archaeological jewel not only for its innovative architectural techniques and state of conservation, but also for the information it offers about the social organization, trade and rituals of this people.

Among these rituals, so far unpublished, stands out the sacrifice or the hecatomb produced in the main courtyard of this building, prior to its destruction, in which more than 50 sacrificed animals have been discovered, mostly equids, in relation to a ceremony that is interpreted as the first evidence of a hecatomb in the Mediterranean.



Along with them, revealing finds have been found, such as pots and dishes from Greece or Etruria, seeds, remains of esparto grass carpets, a grill and a bronze cauldron, or a bathtub or sarcophagus made of a strange material.



For all these reasons, this "sanctuary" has become the symbol of the Tartessian civilization.

The results obtained are in accordance with the established objectives.

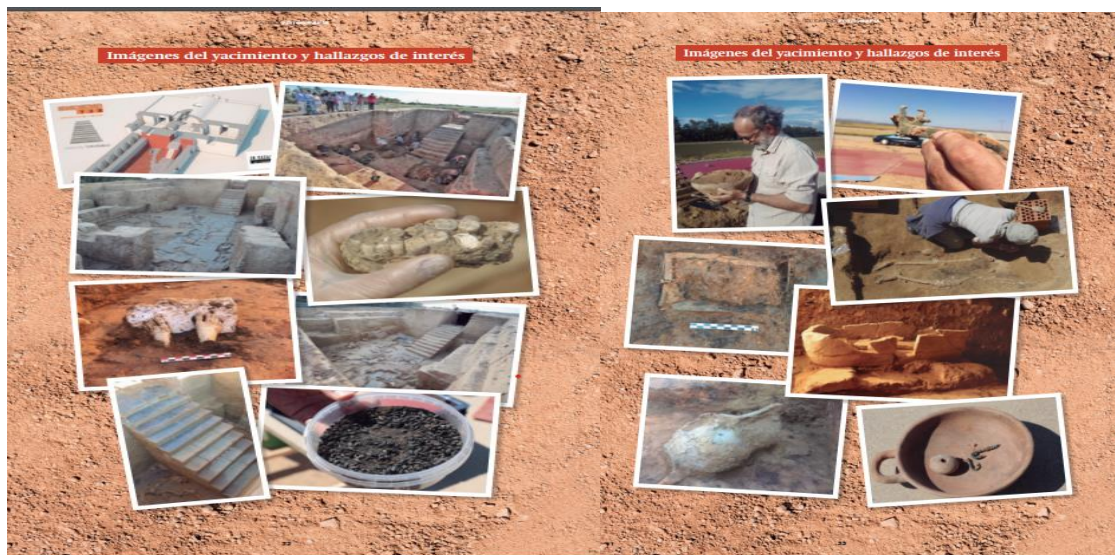
The objective of this action is the study of the remains found at the Turuñuelo site in previous campaigns, in which it was possible to exhume part of a two-story building, consisting of a vestibule and a courtyard with a monumental staircase.

Specifically, the so-called "banquet room" was analysed, a place of sacrifice in this sanctuary, where a rich trousseau composed of bronzes, irons and high quality ceramics, used in the ritual banquet, was recovered. This space was occupied by more than fifty animals sacrificed as offerings to the divinity. No less impressive were the material remains found: glass from

Macedonia and the Carthaginian area, a complete system of bronze weights and a sculpture made of marble from the quarries of Mount Pentelicus, near Athens, whose pedestal retained traces of Egyptian blue with which it was painted.



The archaeological findings have allowed the establishment of an interconnection between society, the productive sector and the Research, Technological Development and Innovation centers of the Extremadura Science, Technology and Innovation System. As a final objective, it has favored the strengthening and growth contributing economic progress and welfare in the quality of life of the citizens of Extremadura, offering the possibility of making known the work done by researchers. Its key has been the dissemination of science and its results.



Contributes to the resolution of a regional problem or weakness.

Extremadura has always detected as a weakness in the field of Research, Technological Development and Innovation the existing disconnection between the centers that generate knowledge and technology, the Extremadura business network and society.

Therefore, this action contributes to solve this deficit, favoring the rapprochement and connection of all the sectors involved, identifying specific challenges and needs in order to adapt to the development of research projects related to them.



Clear examples are the 3D reconstruction of the Turuñuelo site to show the progress of the excavations to society, as well as the work of the researchers of the Research and Transfer Unit in Heritage Sciences 'Patricia' (University of Cordoba), who have already conducted an aerial survey and are now carrying out a flight of the burial mound.

It has a high degree of coverage of the target population.

The action has had a high degree of coverage of the target population. At local level, it has made possible to disseminate the heritage of the town of Guareña and its surroundings. This town has a population of almost 7,000 inhabitants.

The site has been catalogued among other 13 buildings located under burial mounds at the confluence of the Guadiana River, establishing a Tartessian route in Extremadura for the social and scientific dissemination of this civilization.



The horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and environmental sustainability have been taken into account.

Equal opportunities are evidenced by the entrepreneurial initiative carried out by the Women's Association of Guareña, committed to society and their environment, who have seen through confectionery a way to preserve tradition and make known the culture of the Tartessian with the elaboration of the "Tartesitos". The shape chosen for these sweets represents a bronze piece with a bull skin and two doves as a symbol of the Tartessian religion.



On the other hand, environmental sustainability is promoted by the protection of the natural environment, as the site has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest, as well as by the use of the digital format to publicize and disseminate all the information generated by the scientific findings.

Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention

This action is linked to the Extremadura Smart Specialization Strategy and connects with the extended VI Regional Plan for Research, Development and Innovation, 2017-2020. It is added to other international strategic policies by the archaeological campaigns initiated by the CSIC, with the co-financing of ERDF funds, through the Ministry of Science, Innovation, Universities of the Government of Spain, Junta de Extremadura and Diputación de Badajoz.



The complexity of these tasks was recognized in 2018 with the awarding of the Palarqu Foundation's National Prize for Archaeology and Paleontology to the "Construyendo Tarteso" project, which studies the large Tartessian adobe buildings excavated in recent decades.

In this sense, the team of professionals that has worked in the execution of the project is multidisciplinary and has collaborated with research teams from R+D+I centers, universities and national organizations, covering all specialties related to the reconstruction and analysis of the remains found.





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